THE AMENDMENTS

In the Specification:

Amend the paragraph starting at page 40, line 9:

Western blot analysis was performed as follows: Patient samples were collected with a cervical brush and directly lysed in Laemmli Sample Buffer (2% SDS, 60mM Tris pH.6.8, 0.01%, 100 mM DTT) for 5 min at 95°C ($1x10^7$ cells/ml) with subsequent sonification (5x5sec pulses, maximum intensity). Lysates were centrifuged for 12 min at 16,600xg) in a microcentrifuge and supernatant was transferred into a new tube. Precast 4-20% linear gradient ~~Acrylamide~~ acrylamide gels (Criterion System, Bio-Rad) were loaded with 10µl (10^5 cells) of whole cell extracts and proteins were separated at 25mA constant current for 45 min. Proteins were transferred from the gel to ~~Hybond~~ HYBOND® (Hydrophobic polyvinylidene difluoride membrane) ECL Nitrocellulose membrane (Amersham) by standard tank blotting using the Bio Rad Criterion Blotter (15 min at constant 100 Volt and subsequently 45min at constant 50 Volt). Nitrocellulose-membrane was stained for 5 min in Ponceau S solution to assure protein transfer. Ponceau S solution was removed by 2x10 min washes in PBS. For immunodetection, blots were blocked over night in blocking buffer (10% milk powder in PBS with 0.1% Tween-20). Primary antibodies were incubated at dilutions according to the manufacturer in blocking buffer for 1 h at RT with agitation (CK18: MAB 3236), 1:1000, CHEMICON; CK 10/13: DE-K13, 1:500, DAKO, $p16^{INK4a}$: D7D7, 1:140, MTM Laboratories). After 6 washes for 10 min with PBS/0.1% Tween-20, blots were incubated with rabbit anti mouse-HRP, (DAKO, diluted 1:5,000 in blocking buffer) for 1 h at RT. After 6 washes for 10 min with PBS/0.1% Tween-20, membranes were incubated for 5 min in substrate solution (Super Signal West Femto Maximum Substrate, Pierce), wrapped in a plastic envelope and exposed to an x-ray film for 1-5 min. Finally, x-ray films were developed, fixed, dried and documented with an imaging system (Bio-Rad). The same samples were used to perform ELISA analysis for $p16^{INK4a}$, CK 10/13, CK18. The detected signals and results were the similar to the Western blot analysis and the same conclusions were drawn.

After page 50, insert the attached sequence listing pages 1-37.